



# DOUGLAS

## Worcester County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Douglas is a residential upland community between the Blackstone and French River valleys on an historic east-west corridor. It is on the southern border of Massachusetts where Rhode Island and Connecticut come together. The community was named after Dr. William Douglas of Boston, who donated funds for the creation of free schools in the town. There is also a state forest in the town.

The community's early economy was built on agriculture, lumbering, charcoal making, cattle and sheep farming. In the 19th century, this expanded to include the manufacturing of cotton and woolen textiles, shoes, axes and other edged tools. In modern times, much agricultural land has gone fallow and reverted to woods.

Douglas is an unusual community in the extent to which it preserves historic buildings, both residential and commercial. The town retains farm buildings and mill buildings, 19th and 20th century residential buildings built for the working classes, the middle classes and the well-to-do. The town's architecture shows an unusually complete picture of community development through the middle of the 20th century.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southern Massachusetts, bordered by Oxford and Sutton on the north; Uxbridge on the east; Burrilville, Rhode Island, on the south; and Webster on the west. Douglas is 18 miles south of Worcester, 40 miles southwest of Boston, and 175 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 37.71 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 36.37 sq. miles

**Population:** 5,438

**Density:** 150 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Buffumville Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....21.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.4"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Uxbridge, Oxford

## Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 476-4000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1746

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	3,102		
Democrats	718	23.1	%
Republicans	687	22.1	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,697	54.7	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Douglas town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	7,045	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	7,045	100.0
Male.....	3,534	50.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	67	1.0
Female.....	3,511	49.8	Mexican.....	5	0.1
Under 5 years.....	581	8.2	Puerto Rican.....	43	0.6
5 to 9 years.....	595	8.4	Cuban.....	4	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	564	8.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	15	0.2
15 to 19 years.....	513	7.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	6,978	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	264	3.7	White alone.....	6,824	96.9
25 to 34 years.....	1,129	16.0	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	1,438	20.4	Total population.....	7,045	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	972	13.8	In households.....	7,045	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	289	4.1	Householder.....	2,476	35.1
60 to 64 years.....	167	2.2	Spouse.....	1,649	23.4
65 to 74 years.....	279	4.0	Child.....	2,438	34.6
75 to 84 years.....	198	2.8	Own child under 18 years.....	1,974	28.0
85 years and over.....	66	0.9	Other relatives.....	225	3.2
Median age (years).....	34.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	77	1.1
18 years and over.....	4,960	70.4	Nonrelatives.....	257	3.6
Male.....	2,451	34.8	Unmarried partner.....	137	1.9
Female.....	2,509	35.6	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	4,730	67.1	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	627	8.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	543	7.7	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	226	3.2	Total households.....	2,476	100.0
Female.....	317	4.5	Family households (families).....	1,937	78.2
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	1,068	43.1
One race.....	6,972	99.0	Married-couple family.....	1,649	66.6
White.....	6,859	97.4	With own children under 18 years.....	896	35.8
Black or African American.....	34	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	201	8.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	9	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	131	5.3
Asian.....	45	0.6	Nonfamily households.....	539	21.8
Asian Indian.....	8	0.1	Householder living alone.....	429	17.3
Chinese.....	15	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	167	6.7
Filipino.....	9	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,120	45.2
Japanese.....	1	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	408	16.5
Korean.....	7	0.1	Average household size.....	2.85	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.23	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	5	0.1	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	5	0.1	Total housing units.....	2,588	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,476	95.7
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	112	4.3
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	4	0.1	occasional use.....	78	3.0
Some other race.....	20	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.1	(X)
Two or more races.....	73	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.4	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	2,476	100.0
White.....	6,931	98.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,023	81.7
Black or African American.....	41	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	453	18.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	33	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.02	(X)
Asian.....	55	0.8	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.06	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	9	0.1			
Some other race.....	49	0.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Douglas is located in the Blackstone River Valley, which played a major role in early American industrial development due to its natural resources and strategic location between Worcester and Providence. Situated between Interstates 90, 395, and 495, today the Blackstone Valley has good highway and rail access to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Worcester, Providence and Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 16 and 146.

### Rail

There is no freight rail service in Douglas, but the town has easy access to the network of intermodal facilities serving Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

### Bus

Douglas is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) but does not receive services.

### Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is accessible via Route 146. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.